

January 2005

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Richard Varner

## Overview

### Content:

Crash Analysis

Field Enforcement

Administrative Services

During the month of January 2005, the Northern Command experienced an overall increase in total crashes of 43.3% when compared to the same period last year. Troopers handled a total of 523 crashes in January as compared to 446 in December 2004 for an increase of 17.3%. This includes a 29.6% increase in property crashes, a 75% increase in DUI crashes, a 4% decrease in injury crashes and a 60% decrease in fatal crashes. Commercial vehicle crashes increased by 41.2%, however, injury crashes decreased by 40%.

The Command also saw a downturn in enforcement activity of 26.4% as compared to January 2004. However, when compared to December 2004 there was only a 4.9% decrease in total violations which includes a 23.9% decrease in speed violations, a 2.9% decrease in hazardous moving violations and a 26.2% increase in occupant restraint violations.

Total persons arrested decreased by 22.4% as compared to January 2004. When compared to December 2004 the decrease in total persons arrested was 5.7%. There was an 11.1% decrease in other arrests and a 19.5% decrease in DUI arrests prior to crashes. DUI arrests from crashes increased by 75%. Commercial Enforcement's hazardous moving violations increased by 66.7% and other traffic violations increased from 15 in December to 121 in January for an increase of 476%.

One of the main factors that affected both the increase in crashes and the decrease in enforcement activity was the bad weather that the entire northern portion of the state experienced. There were a total of 23 bad weather days in January. Near record amounts of snow fell during the first part of the month and the region was blanketed with dense fog for a majority of the rest of the month. The area also experienced numerous crashes due to icy road conditions. Troopers were also kept busy responding to numerous motorist assists.

Administrative Services processed 611 accidents reports and 159 arrest reports. They also completed 48 office accident reports. The Communication Center handled a total of 95,020 radio transmissions and logged a total of 9519 CAD incidents.

The Command also continued to operate with reduced staffing. During January one trooper transferred to the Parole and Probation Division, two troopers were on light duty for approximately half the month and six troopers spent the majority of the month teaching at the DPS academy.

Northern Command personnel remain committed to making the best use of available resources to effectively and efficiently carry out the mission of the Nevada Highway Patrol.

NORTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	January 2005		January 2004	% Change		December 2004	% Change
Total Crashes	523		365	43.3		446	17.3
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	377		254	48.4		291	29.6
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	144		110	30.9		150	-4
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2		1	100		5	-60
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	21		15	40		12	75
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	2		1	100		6	-66.7
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0		1	-100
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		0	100		3	-66.7
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0		1	-100
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0		1	-100
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		1	0.0		0	100
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	24		17	41.2		17	41.2
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	21		14	50		12	75
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		3	0		5	-40
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0		0	0

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.4%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.0%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 100%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.6%

Although the overall crashes rate increased in the Northern Command a portion of this increase can be directly attributed to the number of weather related crashes occurring this month. As was stated earlier the Northern Command had 23 bad weather days in the month of January. As example weather related crashes in the Reno Urban area contributed 61% to the total crashes and in the Carson Tahoe duty station 45% to the total crashes.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	January 2005		January 2004	% Change		December 2004	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	21		15	40.0		12	75.0
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	70		91	-23.1		87	-19.5
Other Arrests	338		468	-27.8		380	-11.1
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	166		214	-22.4		176	-5.7
Speed violations	1092		2000	-45.4		1435	-23.9
Hazardous moving violations	736		714	3.1		758	-2.9
Occupant restraint violations *	328		358	-8.4		260	26.2
Total violations [above violations included]	4283		5822	-26.4		4504	-4.9
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	20		8	150		12	66.7
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	121		15	706.7		21	476.2
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	257		403	-36.2		606	-56.6
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	4		6	-33.3		1	300.0
Total safety violations -- citation	67		221	-69.7		89	-24.7
Total safety violations -- repair order	537		640	-16.1		767	-30.0
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	22		26	-15.4		14	57.1
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	14		6	133.3		15	-6.7
Total school buses inspected	13		39	-66.7		59	-78.0
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	13		4	225.0		21	-38.1
Total trucks weighed	230		26	784.6		94	144.7
Total overweight citations	5		8	-37.5		3	66.7
Total dyed fuel inspections	180		294	-38.8		378	-52.4
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0		0	0.0

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

As direct correlation to the increase in crashes is the decrease in proactive enforcement due to the reduced amount of time available to the officer to conduct patrol duties. The poor weather that the Northern Command suffered this month affected the officers' ability to conduct proactive patrol. Not only did we have an increase in crashes we had a dramatic increase in motorist assists especially on the mountain roadways we patrol. Numerous spin outs and disabled vehicles caused a climb in the overall count of motorist assists but also increased time involved in each assist due to removal of the vehicle from snow drifts etc.

## **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

- Northern Command Traffic experienced a downturn in enforcement activity and an increase in accidents during the month of January 2004.
- One of the major factors that affected enforcement and accident activity was the unusual amount of snow. There were approximately 23 bad weather days in January.
  - The subsequent poor road conditions caused numerous accidents which in turn limited the amount of time Troopers were available for pro-active on-view patrol activities.
- Dense fog was present in the majority of the Northern Command for most of the month causing added traffic hazards.
- Attempts to focus on accident reduction efforts were futile due to the number of accidents and the severity of storms.
- Northern Command roads suffered from snow buildup that would melt during the day and then freeze on the roads in the evening causing extremely hazardous conditions.
- Road conditions also contributed to a significantly high number of calls for motorist assist.
  - Motorist assists were not only limited to the numerous slide offs, but included Troopers stuck in deep snow.
- Northern Command was also plagued with numerous weather related road closures due to avalanches and heavy snowfall.
  - Northern Command continued to work with Nevada Department of Transportation to coordinate efforts on high accident locations to mitigate hazardous road conditions.
- Road construction continues to plague Northern Command operations, with major work on the IR-80/IR-580 junction as well as the Sparks corridor area. Road construction will continue for the foreseeable future and we will continue to target accident causing violations within the construction zones as manpower allows.
- Staffing continues to decrease with personnel assigned to conduct training, backgrounds, and other administrative duties as well as personnel on sick and military leave status.
- Northern Command troopers continued to make the best of the month prioritizing calls for service as required focusing on life threatening incidents first.
- Northern Command traffic troopers will continue to take advantage of available tools such as the ADAPT vehicle and utilize saturation patrols on high accident dates, times and locations.
- Northern Command troopers remain committed to making the best use of available resources to protect life and property through enforcement efforts targeting accident causing violations as well as apprehension of criminals to include targeting the impaired driver.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

- January is the first month of the second quarter of the current Federal Fiscal Year. This fiscal year continues through September 30, 2005.
- In January, the Commercial Section of the Northern Command continued to strive in order to meet all of the Federal Goals, established by the CVSP (Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan) for this fiscal year.
- The Northern Command Commercial Section, for the second month, failed to meet that goal achievement.
  - This decrease can be attributed to the inclement weather conditions, training and excess use of sick leave that occurred during the month of January.
- Commercial Enforcement scheduled a total of five (5) check-sites for January, but was only able to conduct three (3) check-sites. Due to the weather and locations of the check-sites, none were suitable for Level I inspections, thus, Level II/III inspections were performed.
- Northern Command Commercial personnel expended a total of 95.56 hours assisting the traffic section with traffic control and accident investigation.
- The section investigated seven (7) accidents and assisted in 61 others.
- The total number of citations and MRO's issued decreased this month over last month and again this decrease in activity is in direct result of the weather.
- Commercial Enforcement Troopers issued 116 Hazardous Moving Violations compared to the 21 issued last month.
- The school bus inspection program is based off of an NRS requirement, in which each bus is to be inspected a minimum of twice a year. During the month of January, the Northern Command CVSI's performed a total of 13 school bus inspections.
  - These busses were part of the Carpenter mandatory re-inspection program. All 13 were placed out-of-service due to failing this inspection and all 13 busses were ordered to be scraped. These inspections take the CVSI about an hour to complete. Washoe County School District currently has 22 of these busses remaining in their fleet and will need to be re-inspected in the near future.
- In January, there was again, a considerable amount of training completed. The Commercial section personnel received a total of 677.05 hours of training.
- Five (5) commercial personnel traveled to Las Vegas to complete Part "A" of the NAS (North American Standard) training.
- In January, a total of 1425.35 work hours were lost due to annual leave, compensation leave and sick leave. Most of the hours used during January were for sick leave.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	January 2005		January 2004	% Change		December 2004	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER							
Radio Transmissions	95020		108416	-12.4		90638	4.8
CAD incidents	9519		10971	-13.2		9288	2.5
FRONT OFFICE							
Accident Reports Processed	611		397	53.9		478	27.8
Arrest Reports Processed	159		206	74.2		159	0
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	9		Unk	Unk		6	-50
Office Accident Reports Taken	48		31	54.8		40	20
COURT / WARRANT							
Warrants Received	470		458	2.62		581	-19.1
Warrants Entered	396		1903	-79.1		241	64.3
Warrants Cleared	836		447	87.0		514	62.6
Warrants Validated	240		95	152.6		300	-20
Extradition / Transports	20		27	-25.9		16	25
EVIDENCE							
New Cases Submitted	37		23	60.8		21	76.1
New Items Submitted	43		61	-29.5		35	22.8
Items Disposed	39		23	69.5		47	-17

**COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

- The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD) I positions, as one candidate began employment with a start date of January 24, 2005. A PSD I recruitment was opened to fill the remaining two positions. A hiring list for the vacant shift supervisor position has been requested.
- Total work hours lost increased by 17.5% primarily due to a drop in all leave use, primarily compensatory time.
  - Compensatory time went down by 60%, from 63 hours to 24.75, when compared to December 2004.
  - Scheduled overtime for the month of January (152 hours) was decreased from December, however, unplanned sick leave and a couple of major winter storms created 105 hours of unscheduled overtime.
  - This unscheduled overtime caused an increase in the overall overtime used when compared to last month, but decreased by 18% when compared to last year.
- The radio transmissions in January decreased by 12.4% when compared to last January and increased by 4.8% when compared to last month.

- The CAD incidents decreased by 13.2% when compared to last January and increased by 2.5% when compared to last month. The center experienced two very busy weekends due to snow storms during the New Year's Day Holiday and again on the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **FRONT OFFICE**

- The front office is currently fully staffed.
- The outlying arrest position has been split into working Mondays and Fridays at the Carson City Substation processing their paperwork and transporting to Courts and District Attorney's offices. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays are positioned in the Reno office to process the remaining outlying area's paperwork.
- All felony arrest reports are processed by the AAI position responsible for the local arrest desk. Our regional timekeeper has moved to the Command Secretary's position.
- The transfer from Las Vegas has taken over the timekeeper duties, as well as processing incoming accidents and incidents from the officers.
- The Command Secretary was moved to the front office area to process Contract Services requests, and is currently working on re-writing the Region's Standard Operating Procedures Manuals.
- Accident reports processed increased by 54% over the same time last year due to severe weather conditions.
- Office reports increased by 55%. Arrest reports dropped 74%, primarily due to officers working the accidents.

## **COURT WARRANTS**

- The staff is still working with two AAI positions handling all duties including entering, clearing, and validating warrants.
- A trooper placed on light duty is currently working this area to help second-check warrants, and pull recalled warrants.
- The citation desk is located in this office area, and was responsible for processing 2714 citations for the month of January.
- The Trooper assigned to the section completed twenty transports during the month, a 25% increase from last month.
- The number of warrants received remains steady with only a 2.6% increase over this time last year. Warrants entered significantly dropped by 79% due to last year's numbers including the backlog, which is current to the month of December.
- Cleared warrants were the concentration last month as the Courts are sending up to 40 pages with 50 warrants per page in the 1992 or older category, to be purged. With the extra help, the entry is expected to increase next reporting period.

## **EVIDENCE**

- Both cases and items submitted this month increased from December 2004.
- Thirty-nine adjudicated items were disposed of in January 2005, compared to forty-seven items in December 2004.
- The Administrative Assistant assigned to evidence instructed at the DPS Academy in January.

## **AIRCRAFT**

- Air 1 flew 23.9 hours during January, a 69% decrease over the prior year.
- 9 of 11 scheduled speed enforcement missions were cancelled due to fog and inclement weather.
- 45 citations were issued during the two enforcement missions.
- Three in state prisoner transports were conducted.
- One personnel transport was accomplished; an NDI investigator was transported to Elko for a meeting with the district attorney.



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